

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 160th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 17TH JULY, 1978,

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (65)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (48)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (8)

- Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- *Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)
- *Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)
- *Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance
- *Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport
- *Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
- *Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.R., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)
- *Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (5)

- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information (Absent)
- Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- *Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- *Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent)
- *Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives

* Non elected Minister

2.

- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (20)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

* Non elected Minister

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief
 Whip (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

- (i) Resignation of Cde. Lallbachan Lalbahadur
- (ii) Election of Cde. Parag Sukhai
- (iii) Oath by Cde. Parag Sukhai

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received a letter dated 23rd May, 1978, from Cde. Lallbachan Lalbahadur tendering his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly. Following Cde. Lalbahadur resignation, a seat had become vacant in the Assembly. In accordance with article 70 (1) of the Constitution, he had called upon the Representative of the People's Progressive Party List of Candidates to further extract from the said List the name of a person to fill the vacancy. The name Parag Sukhai had been extracted from the List and Cde. Sukhai had been declared to be elected a member of the National Assembly.

Cde. Sukhai, who was present, made and subscribed as a Member of the National Assembly, the Oath of Office as required by article 76 of the Constitution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Congratulations to Cde. Parag Sukhai

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker congratulated Cde. Sukhai on his election and extended best wishes to him.

(ii) Resignation of Cde. Satti Jaiserrisingh

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter dated 15th July, 1978, from Cde. Satti Jaiserrisingh tendering her resignation as a Member of the National Assembly.

He stated that, in accordance with article 70 of the Constitution, he would be calling upon the Representative of the List from which Cde. Jaiserrisingh's name was extracted, to further extract from the said List the name of a person who was willing to become a Member of the Assembly, to fill the vacancy.

(iii) Referendum Results

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, as was required by section 99 of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, as modified by the Referendum (Modification of the Representation of the People Act) Regulations 1978, he had publicly declared the Results of the Referendum which was held on Monday, 10th July, 1978. The results were published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette of Thursday, 13th July, 1978. He had caused to be circulated to Members and to be placed in the Records of the Assembly the Declaration.

(The Declaration which was made at 9.00 a.m. on Thursday, 13th July, 1978, from the Balcony of ... the Public Buildings, Georgetown, is attached).

(iv) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cde. Jackson for 4 days from 16th July, 1978.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives:

State Paper on a National Science and Technology Policy (February, 1978).

(Ec. D: 25/4/1 II)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources:

(a) Annual Report of the Forest Department for the year 1974.

(ENR: 4/9¹¹ T) 1) (Circulated)

(b) Annual Report of the Guyana Timber Export Board for the year 1976.

(ENR: 4/31)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

(a) Loan Agreement dated 28th November, 1974, between the Government of Guyana and Orion Termbank Limited.

(ST: 3/2/1/4)(Circulated)

(b) Exchange of Letters - United Kingdom/Guyana Loan 1978.

(ST: 3/2/1/11)(Circulated)

- (c) Loan Contract dated 1st February, 1978, between Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (Abary River Water Control Project) (Loan No. 536/SF-GY).
(ST: 35/3)(Circulated)
- (d) Amendment No. 1 dated 28th April, 1978, to Loan Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the Government of Canada (Forestry Sector).
(ST: 35/26/1)(Circulated)
- (e) State Pension (HUBERT WILKINSON) Order 1978 (No. 22), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on the 15th of February, 1978, and published in the Gazette on the 25th of February, 1978.
(ST: 4/24)(Circulated)
- (f) Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guyana for Sales of Agricultural Commodities.
(ST: 35/14(1))(Circulated)
- (g) United Kingdom/Guyana (Miscellaneous Capital Goods) Loan 1978.
(ST: 3/2/1/12)(Circulated)
- (h) Loan Agreement (Arina Regina Tourism Project) between the Caribbean Development Bank (Trustee for the Venezuela Investment Fund) and Guyana (Dated 12th April, 1978).
(ST: 3/2/6/10)(Circulated)

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Matter relating to dismissal of workers.

The Deputy Speaker sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the dismissal of workers from certain organisations.

The Speaker did not allow the claim as he was not satisfied that the matter qualified as one to be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 14/1978
published 10.6.78

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
AMERINDIAN ACT.

(2) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL 1978 -
Bill No. 15/1978 published 13.7.78

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development, on behalf of the Prime Minister presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO EFFECT AN ALTERATION TO ARTICLE 82 OF THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL Second Reading

ITEM 1 - TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 13/1978
published 20.5.78

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE TAX ACT.

Mr. Singh and the Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

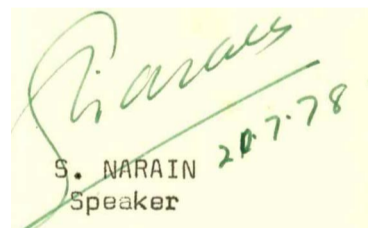
The Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.32 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 21st July, 1978.



S. NARAIN 20.7.78
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
20th July, 1978.

NOTICE

DECLARATION OF RESULTS OF REFERENDUM BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Under section 99 of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03 of the Laws of Guyana, as modified by the Referendum (Modification of the Representation of the People Act) Regulations 1978, the Speaker of the National Assembly is required to publicly declare the results of the Referendum as soon as practicable after Referendum Day.

The Referendum was held on Monday, 10th July, 1978. The question to which the electors were asked to answer either "Yes" or "No" was "Do you approve of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1978, which was passed by the National Assembly on 10th April, 1978, and published in the Official Gazette dated 13th May, 1978?".

The results of the Referendum have been submitted to me by the Chief Election Officer and I now publicly declare them.

The number of valid votes cast for the question was	— 419,936
The number of valid votes cast against the question was	— 8,956
The number of rejected ballot papers was	— 2,228

In the circumstances, I hereby declare that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill No. 8 of 1978 has been approved by a majority of the electors who voted on the Bill in accordance with article 73(3) of the Constitution.

S. Narain,
Speaker of the National Assembly.

Speaker's Chambers,
Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

13th July, 1978.